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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Slovakia -- Crisis within the Communist Party

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1. It is reported from Slovakia that a serious internal crisis has developed within the Slovak Communist Party. Communist intellectuals of Slovak origin, being fully aware of the fact that the rank and file of the Party dislike the non-Slovak Party members who actually hold over 70 per cent of the leading positions, have been opposing the Party policy of placing more and more non-Slovaks in leading positions. These individuals are also objecting to the widespread persecution of non-conformists, the compiling of lists of people unfriendly to the present regime, as well as other "radical measures" which, directly or indirectly, have caused the deaths of many persons. * **.
2. At a meeting of the Communist Party Executive Committee shortly after 6 January 1949 (exact date unknown), which lasted two days, a serious break in the Communist united front occurred. During the critique of the Security Commission of the Commissariat of the Interior, Dr. Gustav HUSAK, Chairman of the Board of Slovak Commissars, as well as a member of the Executive Committee of the Slovak Communist Party and member of the Security Commission, said emphatically that he would assume no responsibility for the activities of the Commission and would not participate in meetings of that organ in the future. ***. A long debate is reported to have ensued. After this meeting Laco (Ladislav) NOVOSILSKY, Commissar of Education, stopped coming to his office and was suddenly replaced by Dr. Andrei PAVLIK, former regional head of the HLINKA Youth.
3. At regional conferences of the Slovak Communist Party held at the end of January 1949, a similar situation developed. Objections were raised that the highest positions in the NB (National Security Police) were held by non-Slovaks -- only one Slovak holding an important position, the leading officials being Czechs, and Hungarian and German Jews.
4. [redacted] that at the end of January Dr. Gustav HUSAK expressed willingness to give up his position as Chairman of the Board of Slovak Commissars. He is understood to have asked CLEMENTIS, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to consider him for a position in the Czechoslovak Foreign Service, preferably a diplomatic post in Paris.
5. In this connection, about six months ago, Dr. Ivan HORVATH, Vice Chairman of the Slovak National Council, was forced to resign and, by order of the Central Committee of the Slovak Communist Party, was appointed Czechoslovak Minister to Hungary. ****.

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- 25X1 * Comment. Examples of non-Slovaks in leading positions are as follows: Vilem SIROKY of German origin; Stepan BASTOVANSKY, formerly BATORY, Hungarian; Dr. Edmund FRIS, Hungarian Jew educated in Moscow; ZUPKA, Viennese Czech; Dezider BENAU, formerly BENO, Hungarian.
- 25X1 ** Comment. BENAU was formerly editor of the "NEW YORKSKY DENNIK" (1946) and a "left wing" Social Democrat. At that time, although his sympathies were with the left, he is reported to have opposed any fusion of the Social Democrat Party with the Communist Party. However, upon his return to Czechoslovakia in June 1946 he joined the Communist Party and became head of all newspaper activities of the Central Trade Union Council in Slovakia.
- 25X1 *** Comment. The Security Commission is presided over by Jozef LIETAVEC, former Representative of the Slovak Communist Party, and now Chief of the Sixth Bureau -- Labor and Collecting Camps -- of the Commissariat of the Interior.
- 25X1 **** Comment: For previous information concerning personalities mentioned in this report,

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